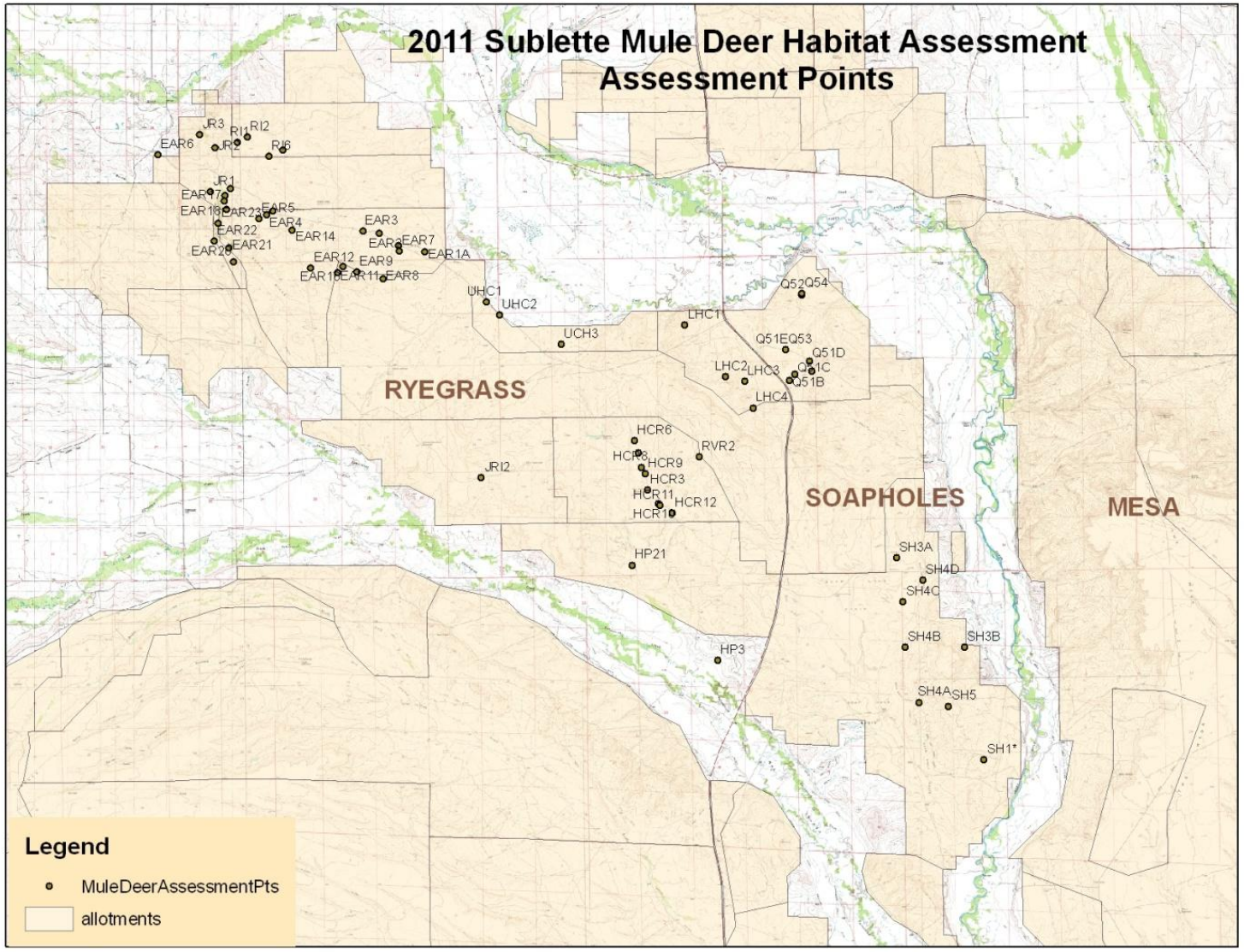
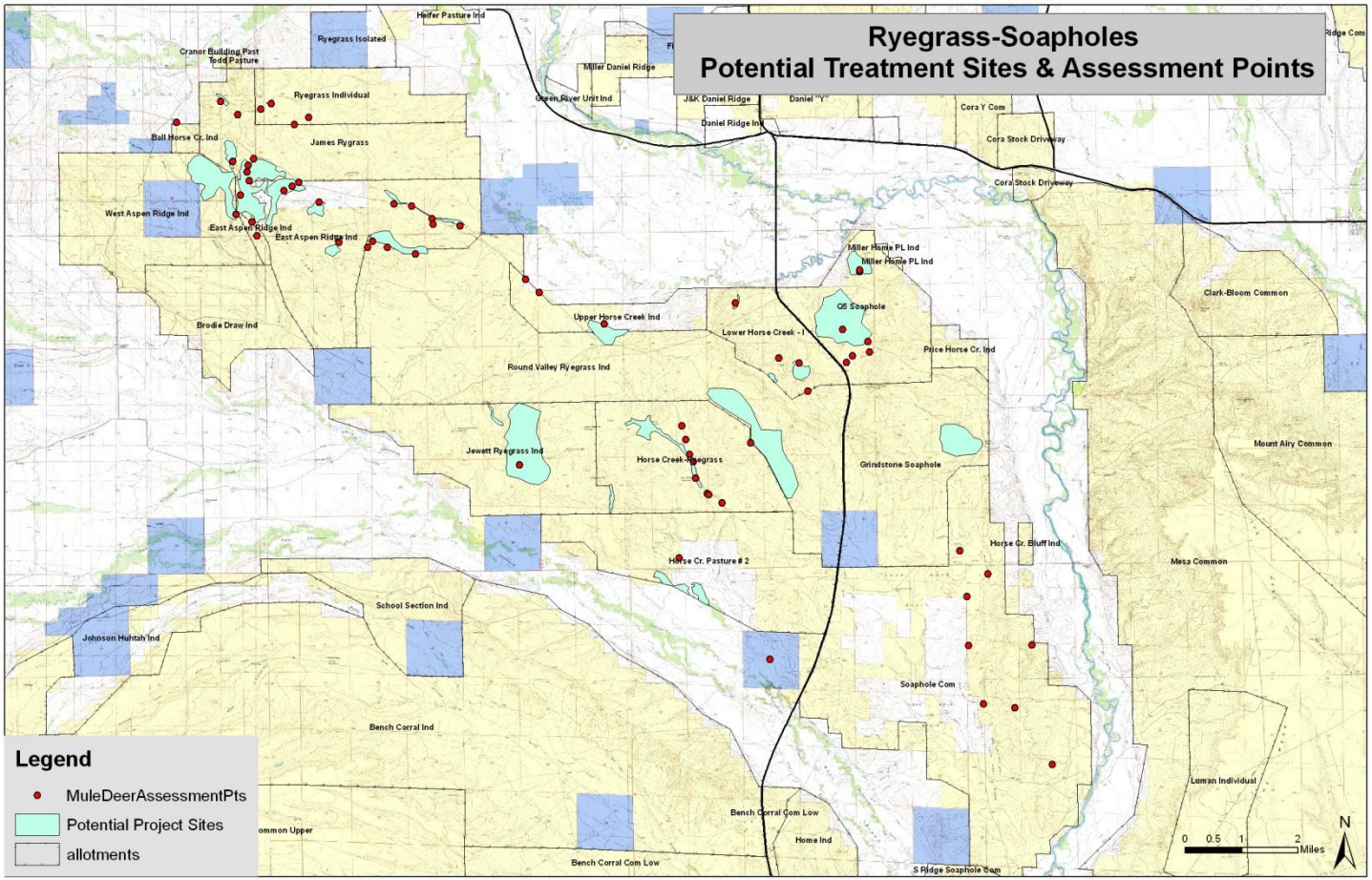
SUBLETTE MULE DEER HABITAT ASSESSMENT

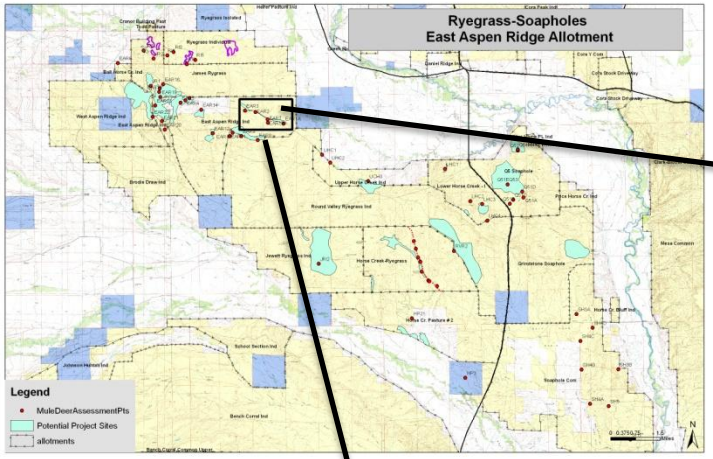
RYEGRASS-SOAPHOLES ASSESSMENT POINTS

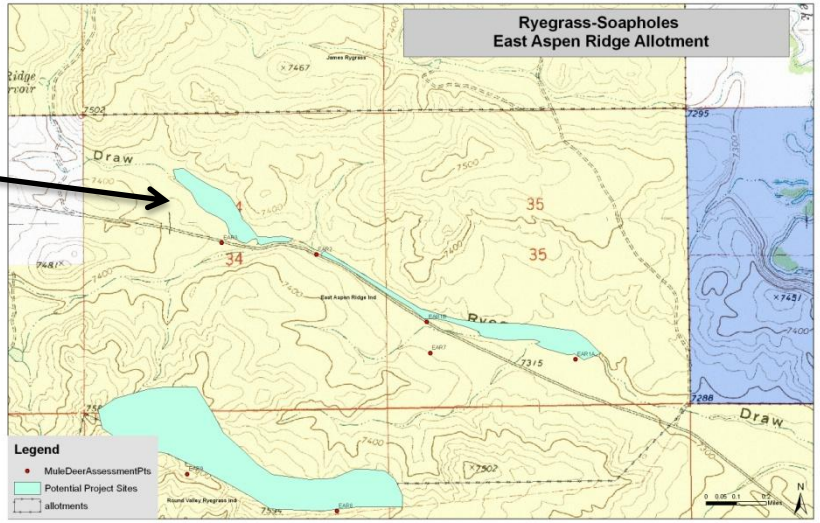


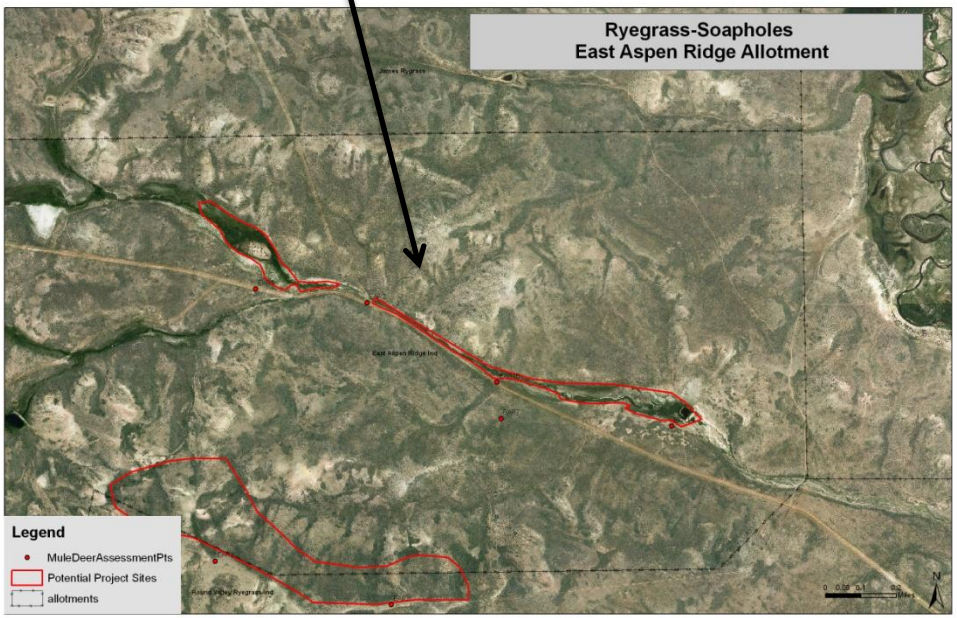
RYEGRASS-SOAPHOLES POTENTIAL PROJECT SITES



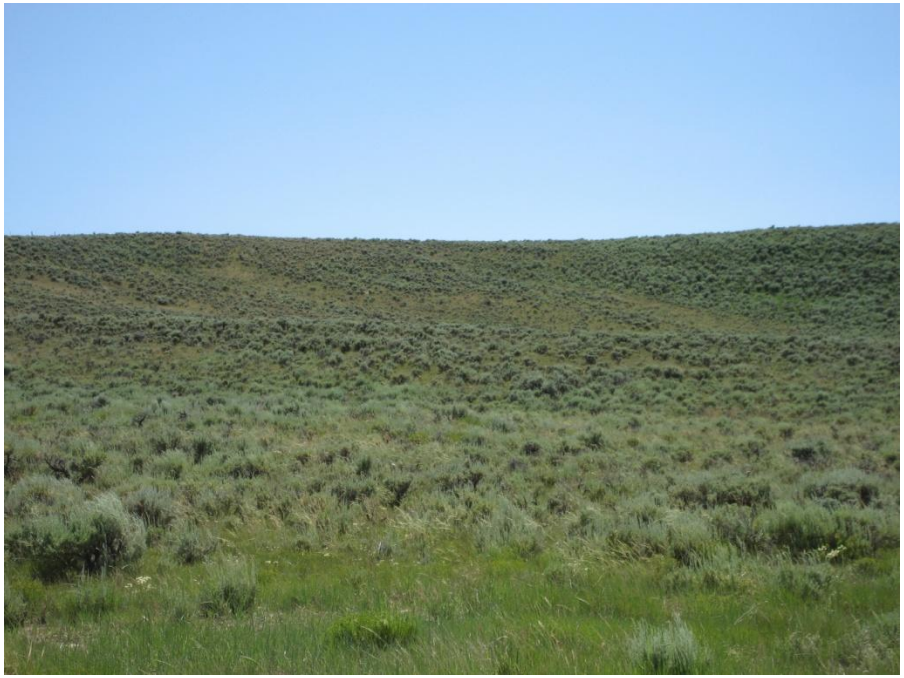
EAST ASPEN RIDGE ALLOTMENT – EAR 1-3





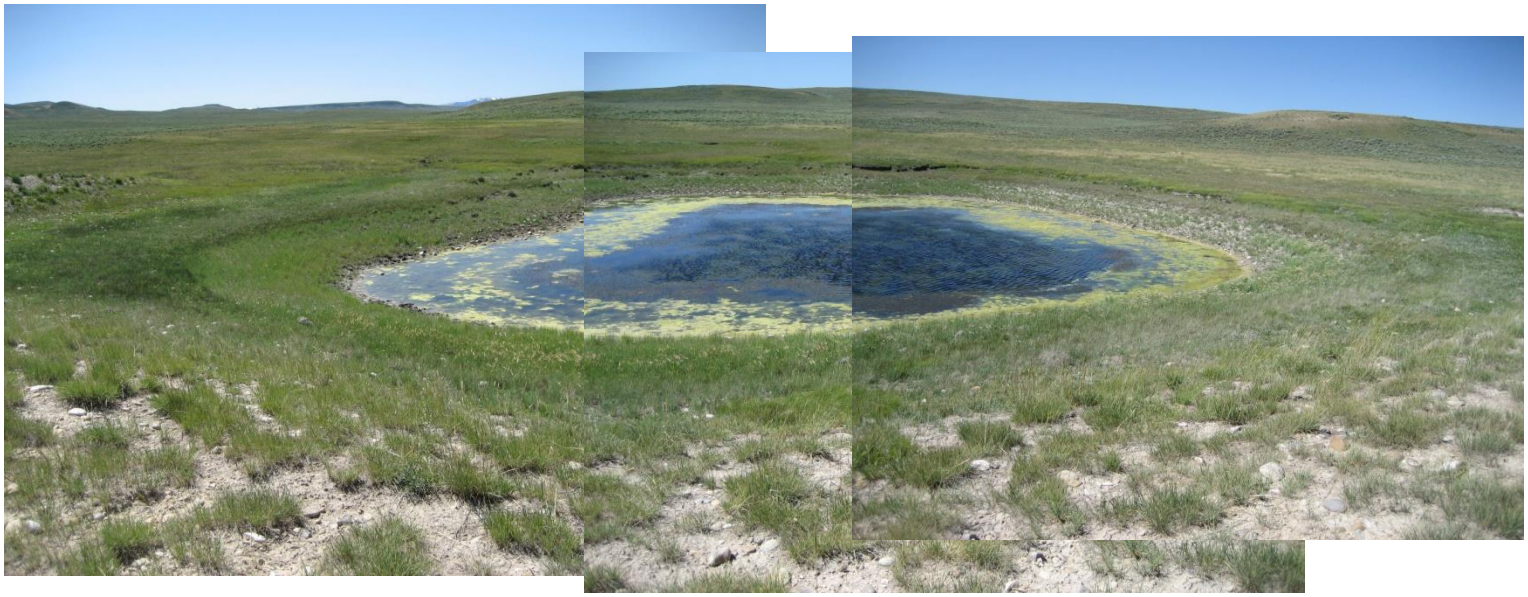


EAST ASPEN RIDGE ALLOTMENT – EAR 1-3



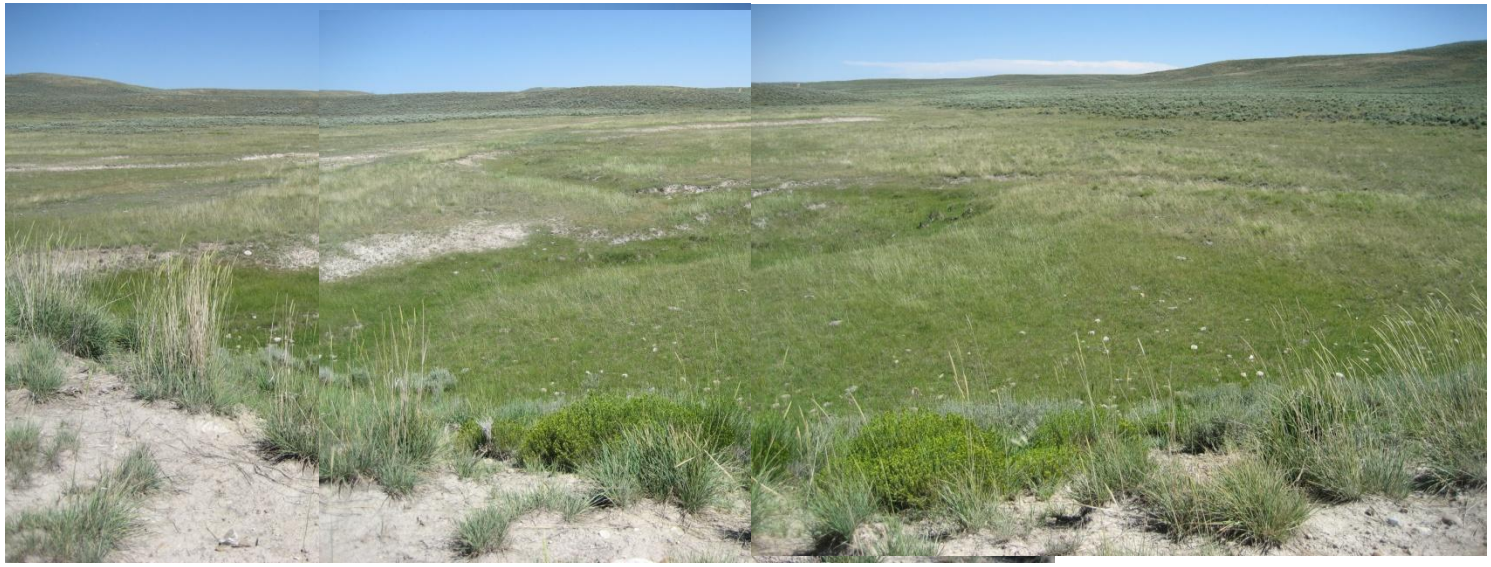
Upper Slopes – some potential for small mechanical treatments with seeding

EAST ASPEN RIDGE ALLOTMENT – EAR 1-3



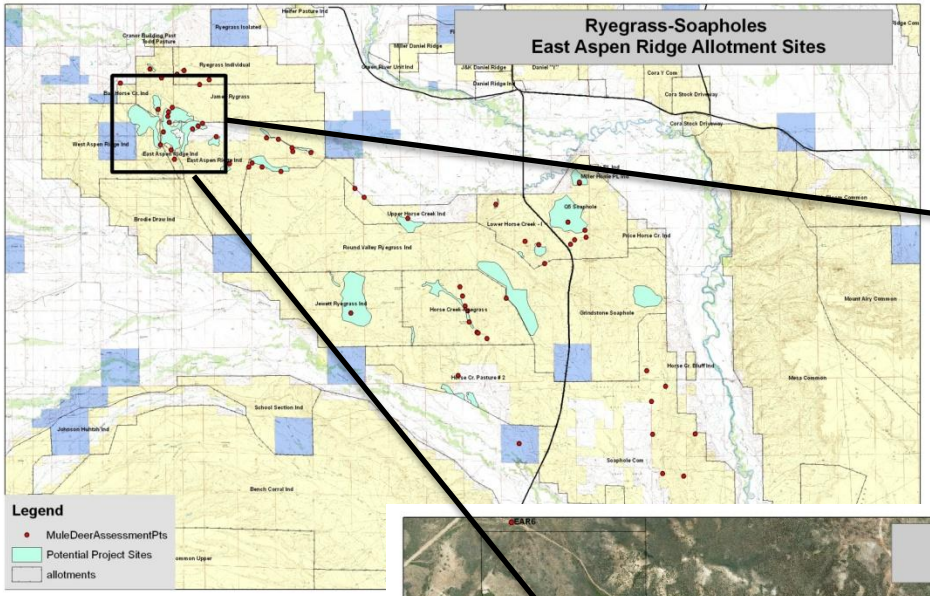
Potential site for protection with off-site livestock water; and incorporation of legumes into wet meadow complex
Also potential for seeding along meadow edges and around/adjacent to pond area.

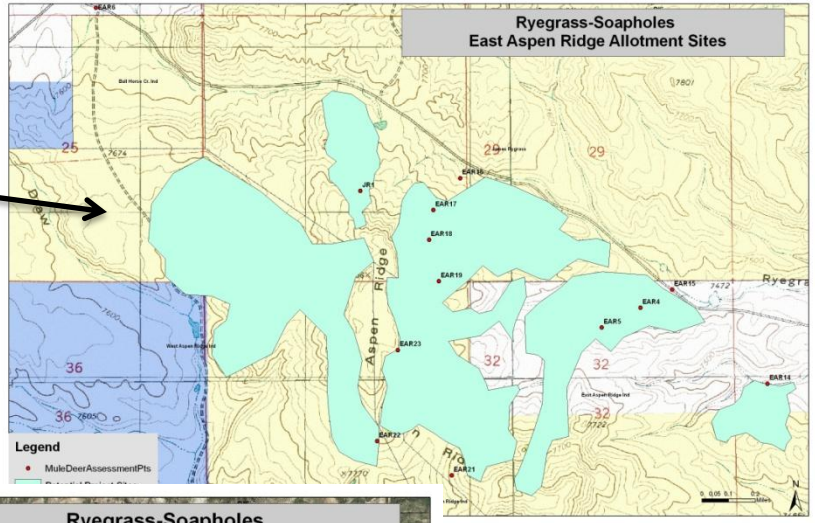
EAST ASPEN RIDGE ALLOTMENT – EAR 1-3

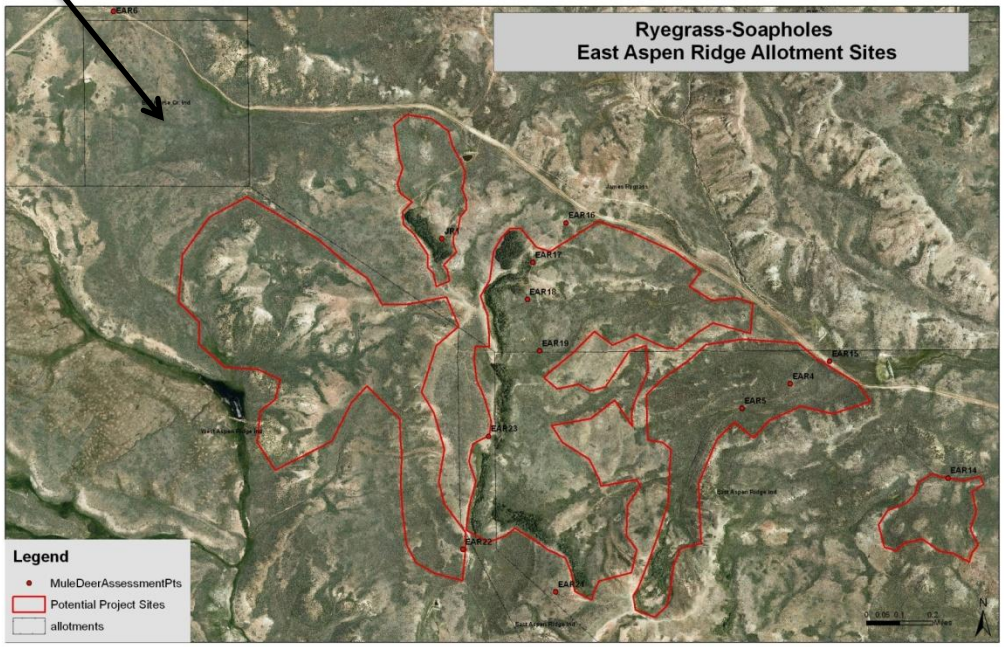


Another wet meadow area further up drainage – most of this drainage has potential for improvement with seeding of legumes and other desirable vegetation.

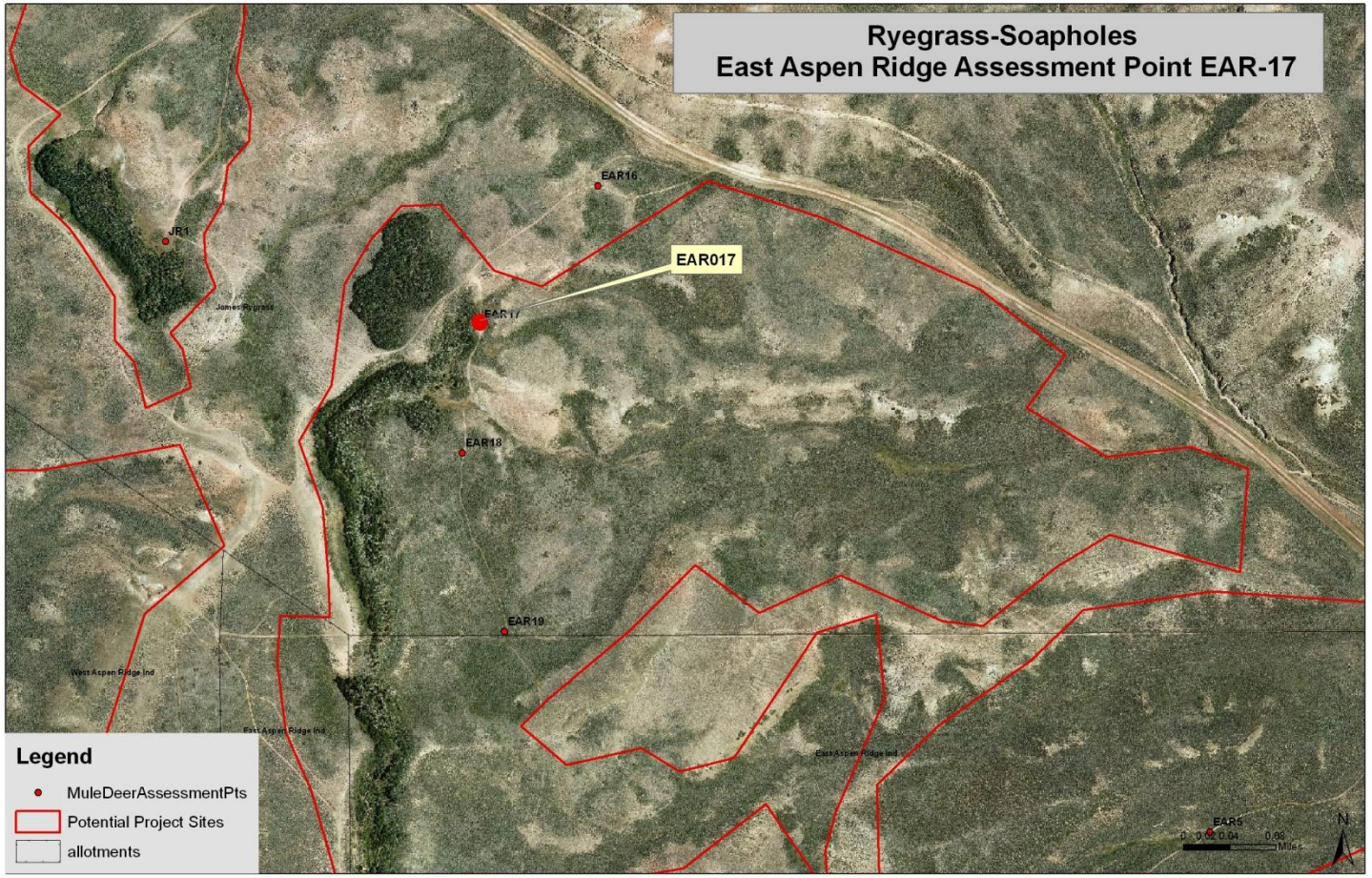
EAST ASPEN RIDGE – EAR4-22







EAR-17 – Aspen/Mixed Shrub Community



This overall area has great potential for treatments from assessment points EAR4 through EAR 22

This example highlights mostly the aspen area and lower slopes

EAR-17 – Aspen/Mixed Shrub Community

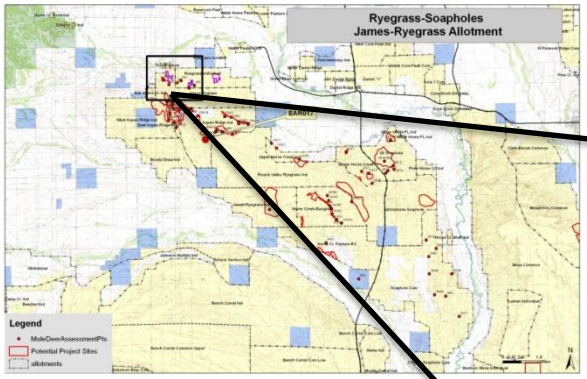
This specific site contains at least two age classes of aspen with various shrubs in understory including serviceberry, rose, snowberry and currant
As you proceed downslope and to east, you have added mesic areas, some containing snowberry, highlighting added potential for mixed shrubs
As you continue further downslope, opportunities exist to implement projects in sagebrush communities and/or sagebrush communities containing bitterbrush

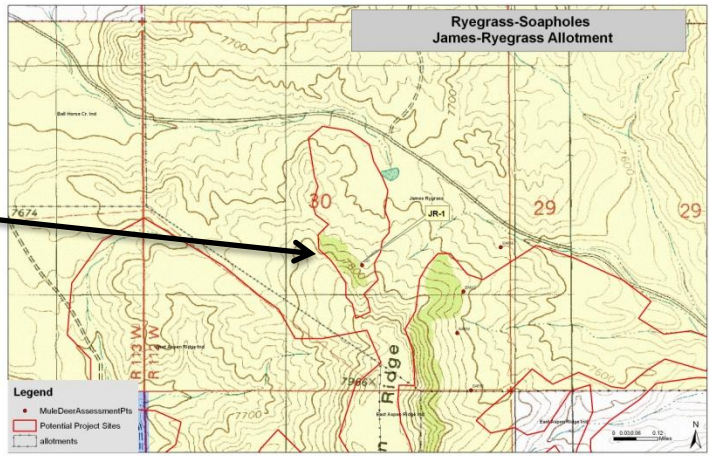
East Aspen Ridge Panoramic

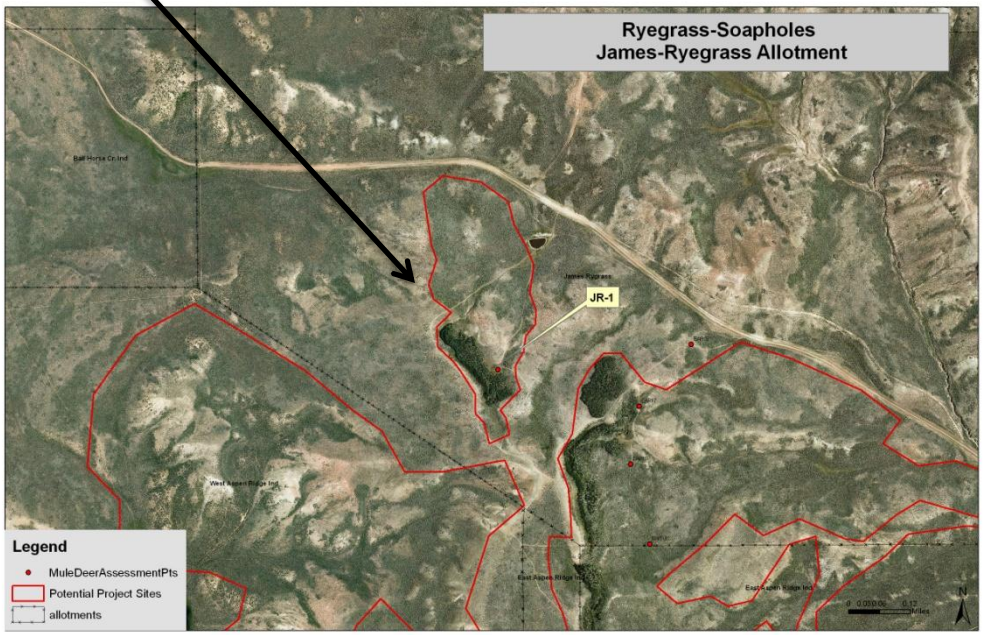
Treatment opportunities in area include:

- Rx burn in and adjacent to aspen with emphasis on edges
- Shrub planting after burn (as has been done in Idaho – Tex Creek)
- Thinning of sagebrush in other areas that are more mesic and contain snowberry or other remnant mixed shrubs (including areas downslope to private lands (EAR4&5)
- Consider ripping lower edge of aspen for increased suckering response
- Close road directly below aspen stand

James-Ryegrass Allotment Assessment Point JR-1



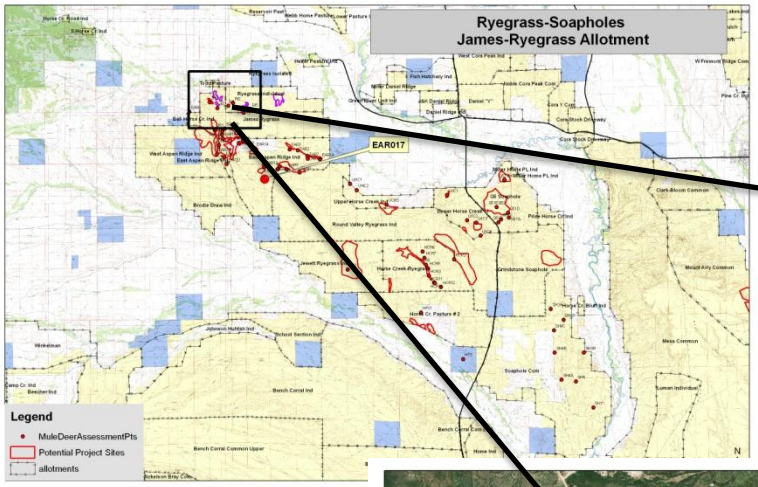


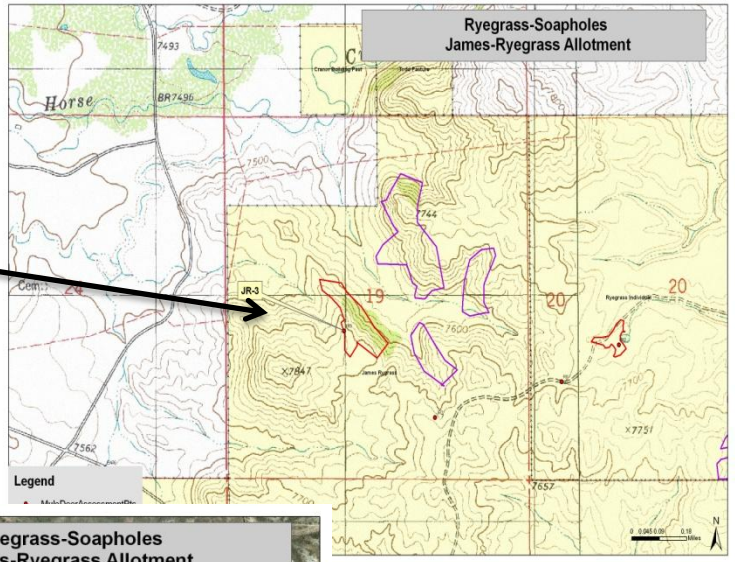


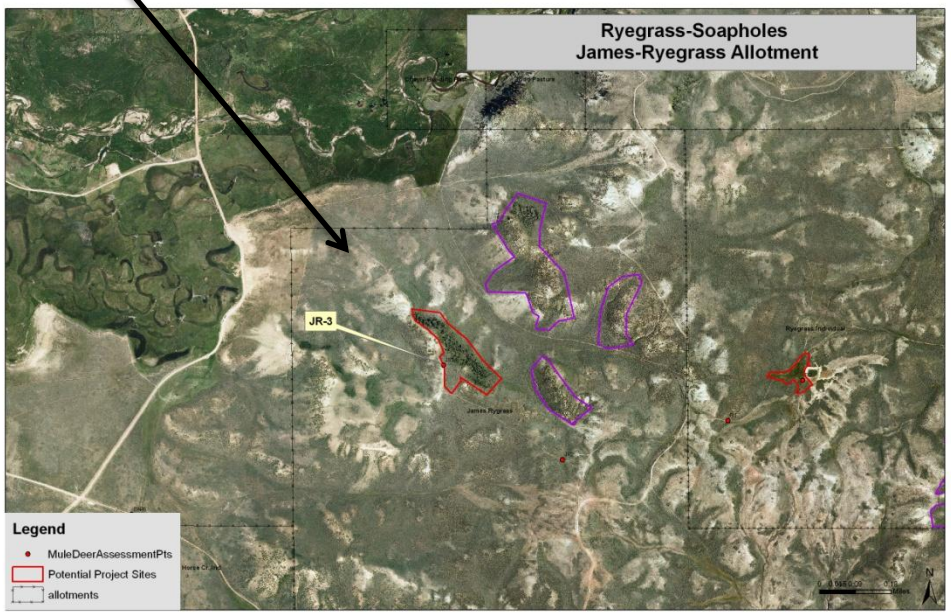
James-Ryegrass Allotment Assessment Point JR-1

Aspen-Mixed Shrub Community – remnant mixed shrubs extend downslope to north almost to road.
Summer browsing observed along with livestock concentrations in aspen stand
Recommend protection from livestock, potential ripping along edge of aspen and possible treatments downslope to remove sagebrush and encourage more palatable shrubs; shrub planting also possible.

James-Ryegrass Allotment Assessment Point JR-3







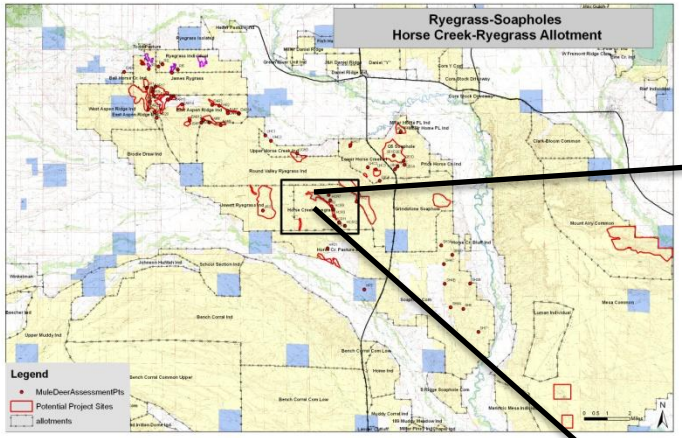
James-Ryegrass Assessment Point JR-3

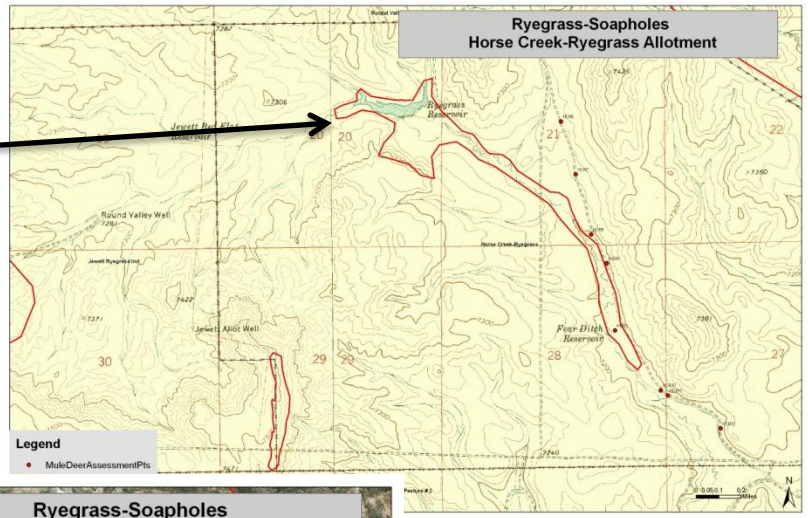
Shrubs present include mountain big sagebrush, snowberry, serviceberry, Oregon grape, and rabbitbrush

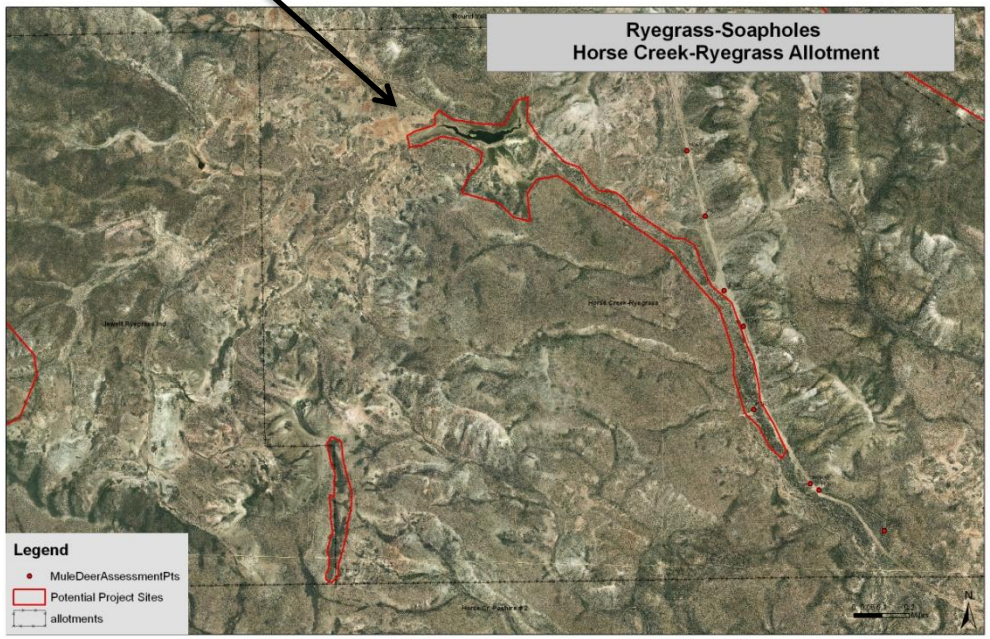
James-Ryegrass Area
Shot from Road to North

- Photo illustrates extent of aspen community
- Potential treatment recommendations include Rx burning to reduce sagebrush densities followed by planting of mixed shrubs (e.g. Tex Creek examples)
- May also want to consider ripping along lower edge of aspen to stimulate suckering response
- Bottom of draw has some mowing that has already been done – may want to consider/evaluate seeding within the mowing to increase diversity

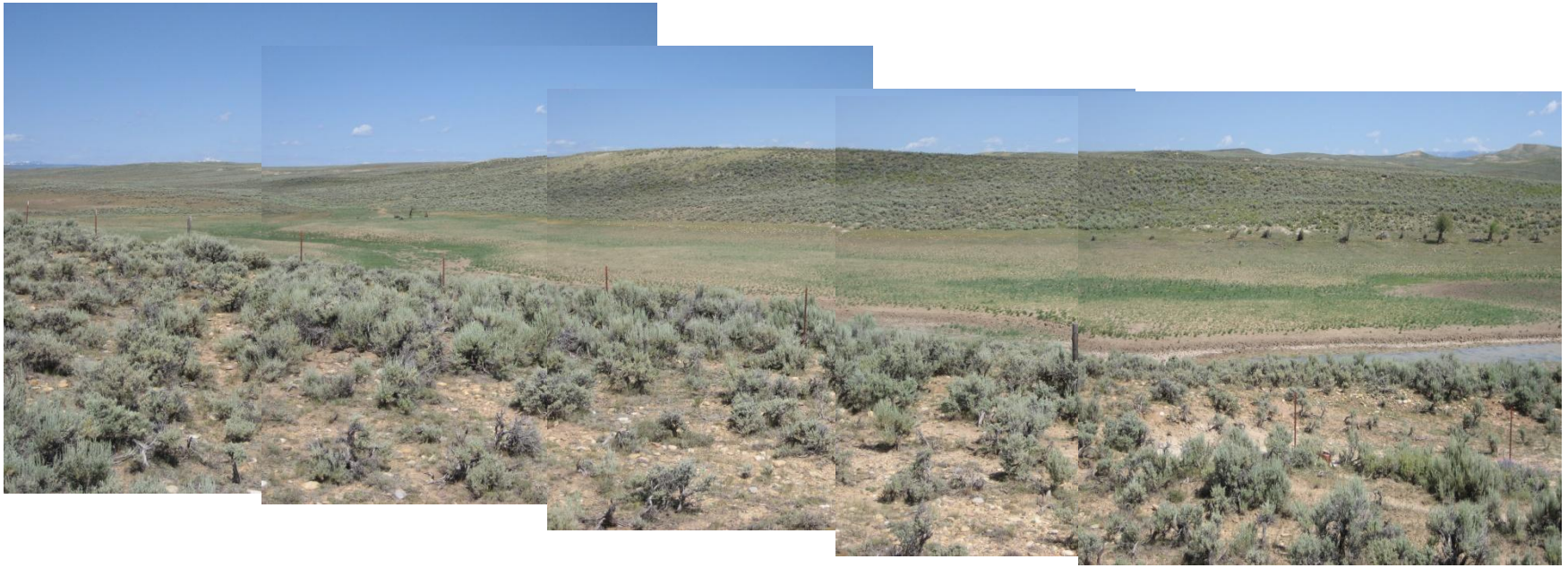
Horse Creek-Ryegrass Allotment







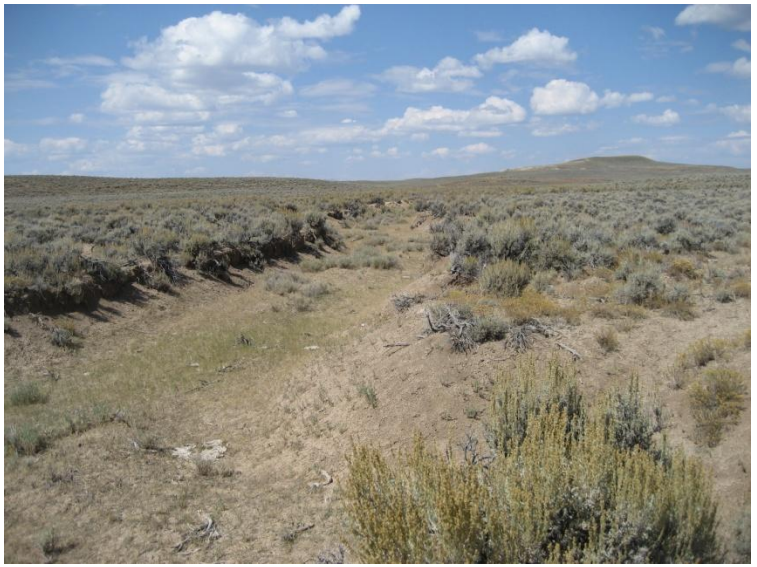
Horse Creek-Ryegrass Allotment
Project 1 – Reservoir Area



This potential project would probably have more benefits to sage-grouse and other wildlife than mule deer, although some benefits may also be related to mule deer (spring period)

- Project involves the maintenance/repair and possible expansion of existing fence, presumed to protect Ryegrass Reservoir area
- Evaluate with assistance (NRCS) drainage below reservoir for possible restoration

Horse Creek-Ryegrass Allotment
Project 2 – Drainage Below Reservoir

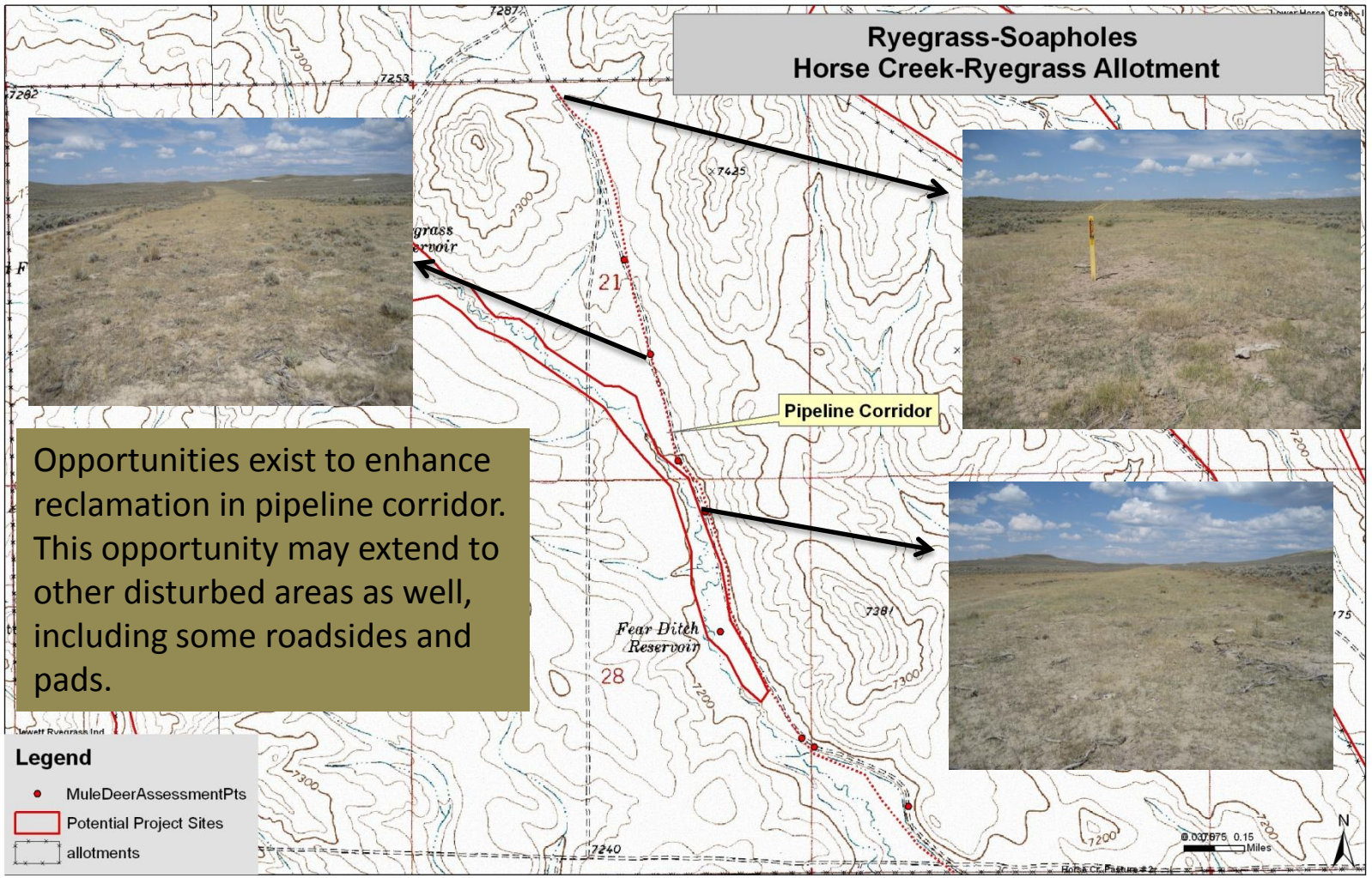


Drainage below Reservoir – Existing Conditions

Possible opportunities

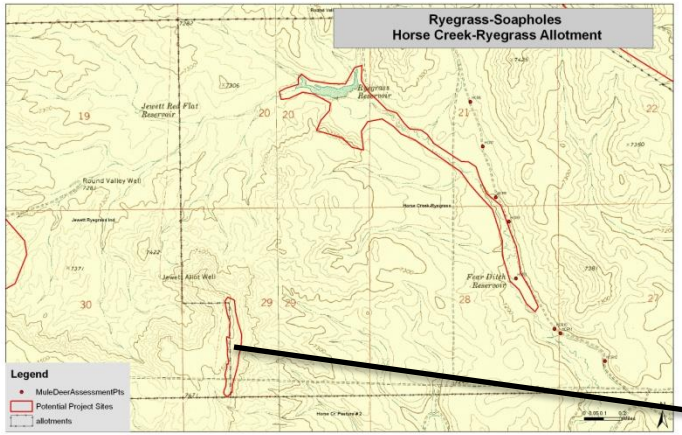
- Gabions or other structures on bottom with seeding
- Use of Lawson Aerator with seeding on edges of drainage

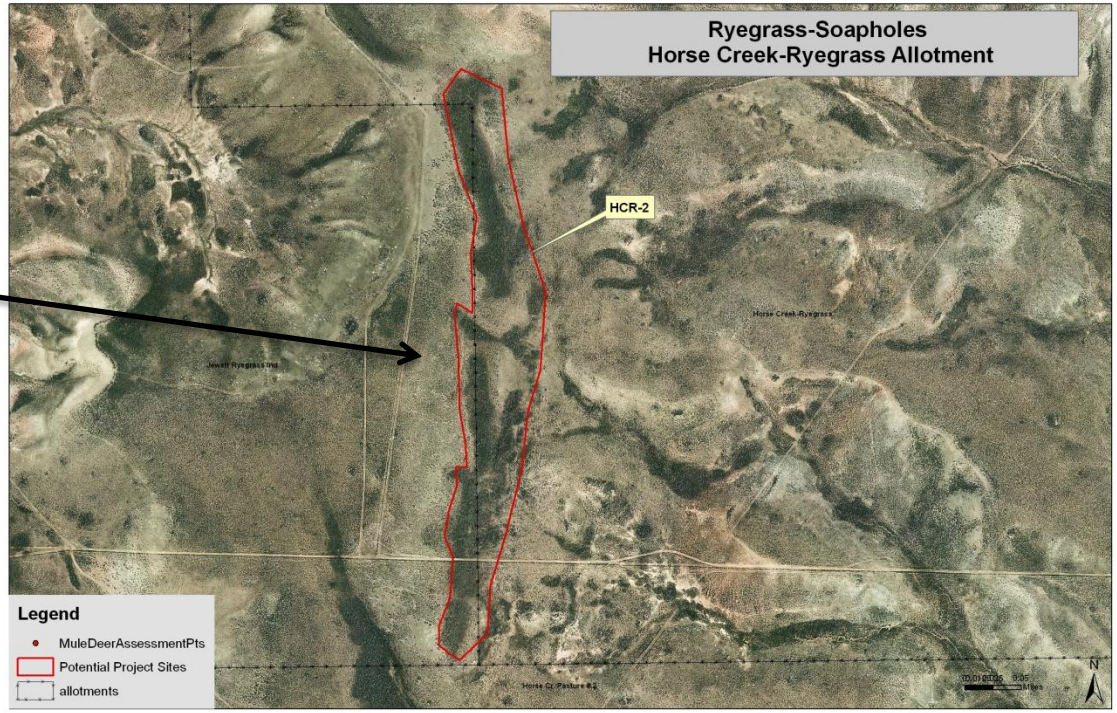
Horse Creek-Ryegrass Allotment
Project 3 – Pipeline Corridor



Opportunities exist to enhance reclamation in pipeline corridor. This opportunity may extend to other disturbed areas as well, including some roadsides and pads.

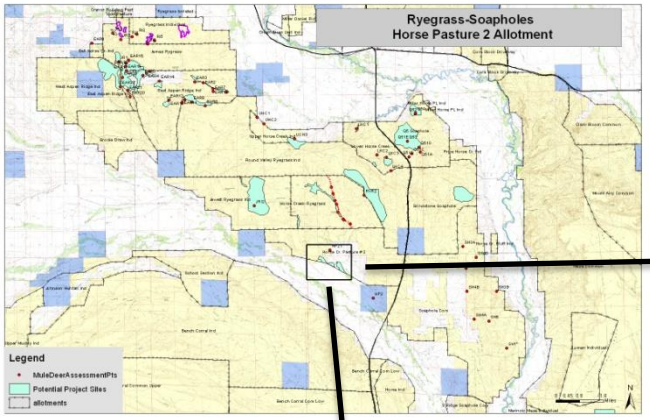
Horse Creek-Ryegrass Allotment
Project 4 – Mixed Shrub Community

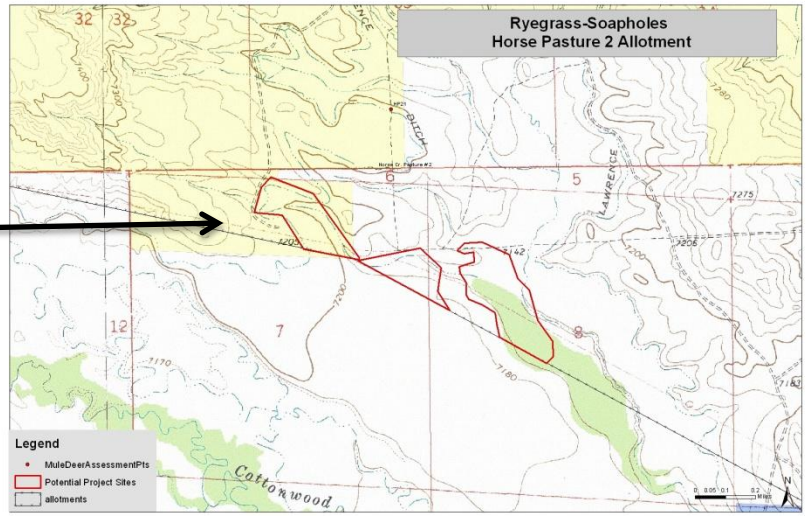


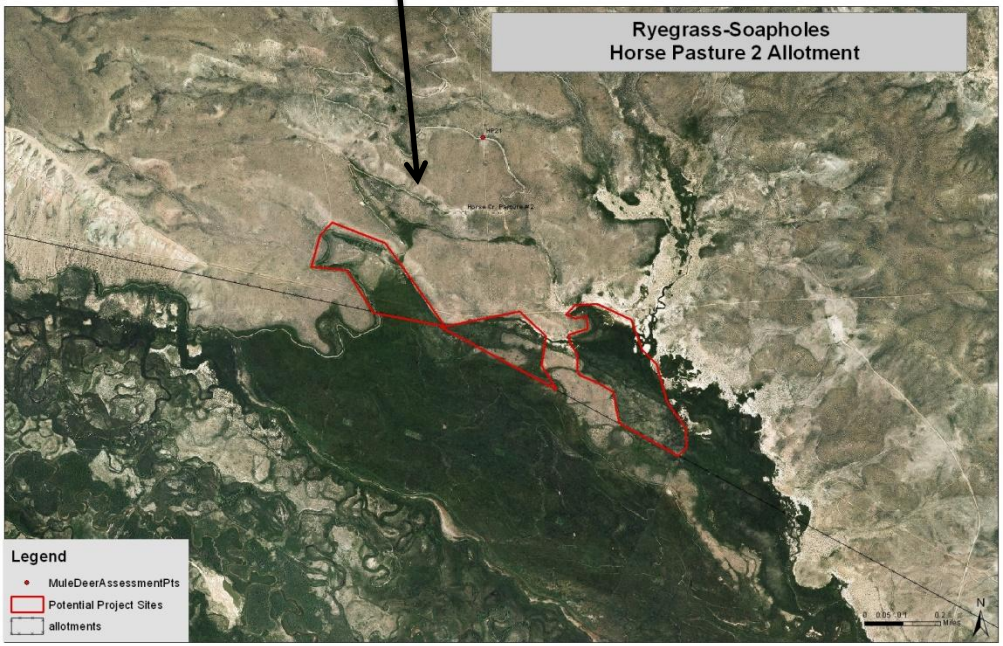


- Potential for enhancing Mixed Shrub Community through sagebrush treatments and planting along lower end of this community
- Shrubs present include big sagebrush, snowberry, serviceberry, and green rabbitbrush
- Moderate to heavy browsing of sagebrush observed on top of ridge

Horse Pasture 2 Allotment
Project 5 – Wet Meadow Seeding





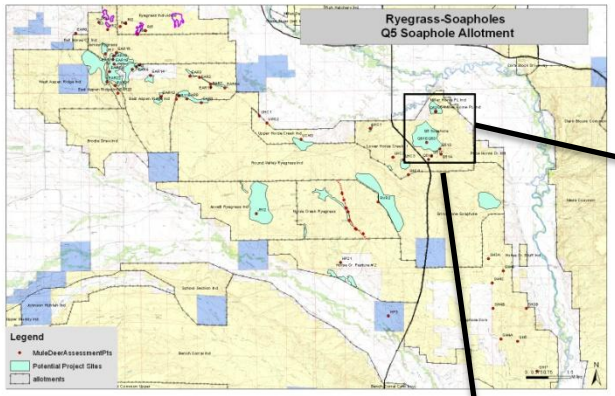


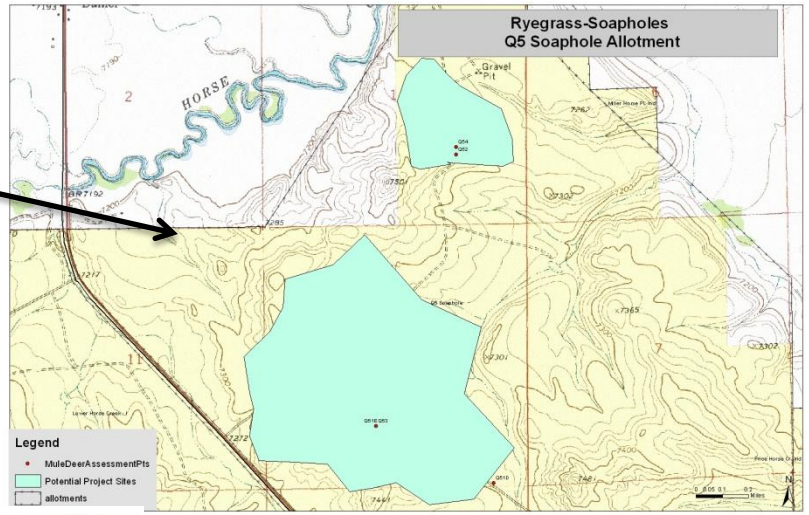
Similar to the wet meadow projects suggested for the East Aspen Ridge Allotment, opportunity exists to enhance these meadows with interseeding.

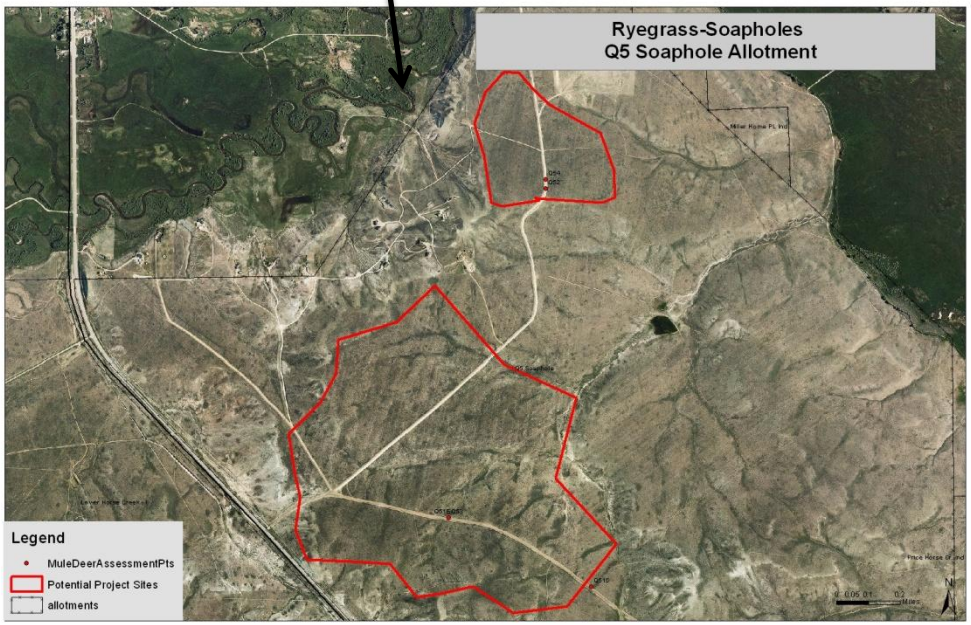
Horse Pasture 2 Allotment
Project 5 – Wet Meadow Seeding

- Photos of wet meadow areas
- Would need to coordinate with private landowner as these are on private property but fenced in with BLM allotment.
- Also possible to expand to other private lands

Q-5 Soapholes Allotment



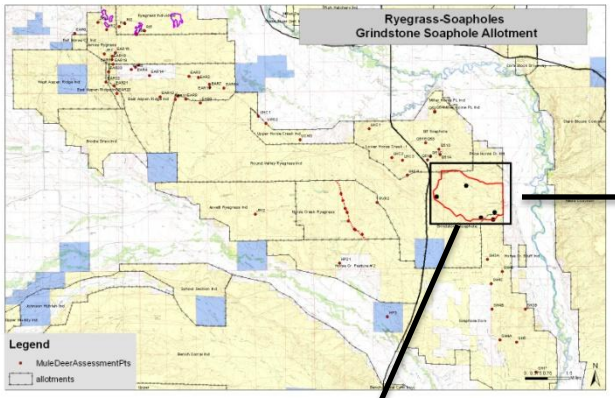


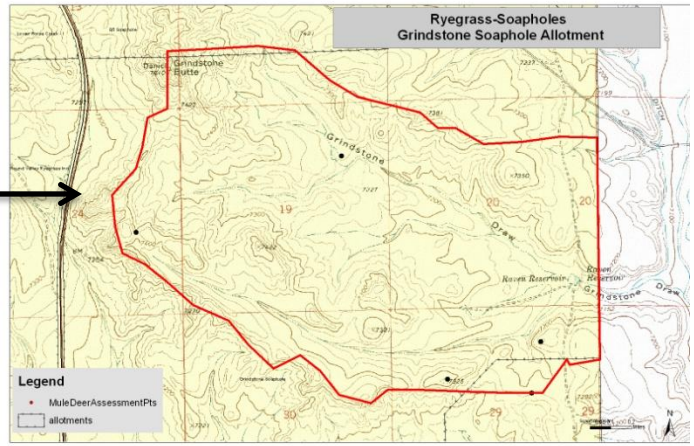


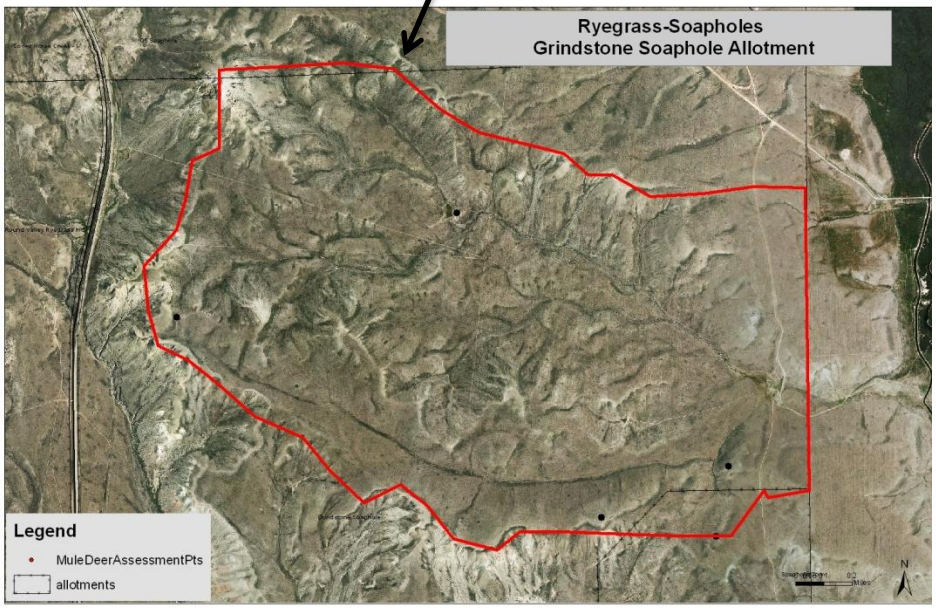
Q-5 Soapholes Allotment
Sagebrush thinning/seeding

Mechanical treatments with seeding of bunchgrasses, forbs, winterfat and other desirable shrubs

Grindstone-Soaphole Allotment
Potential Basin Improvement Strategy

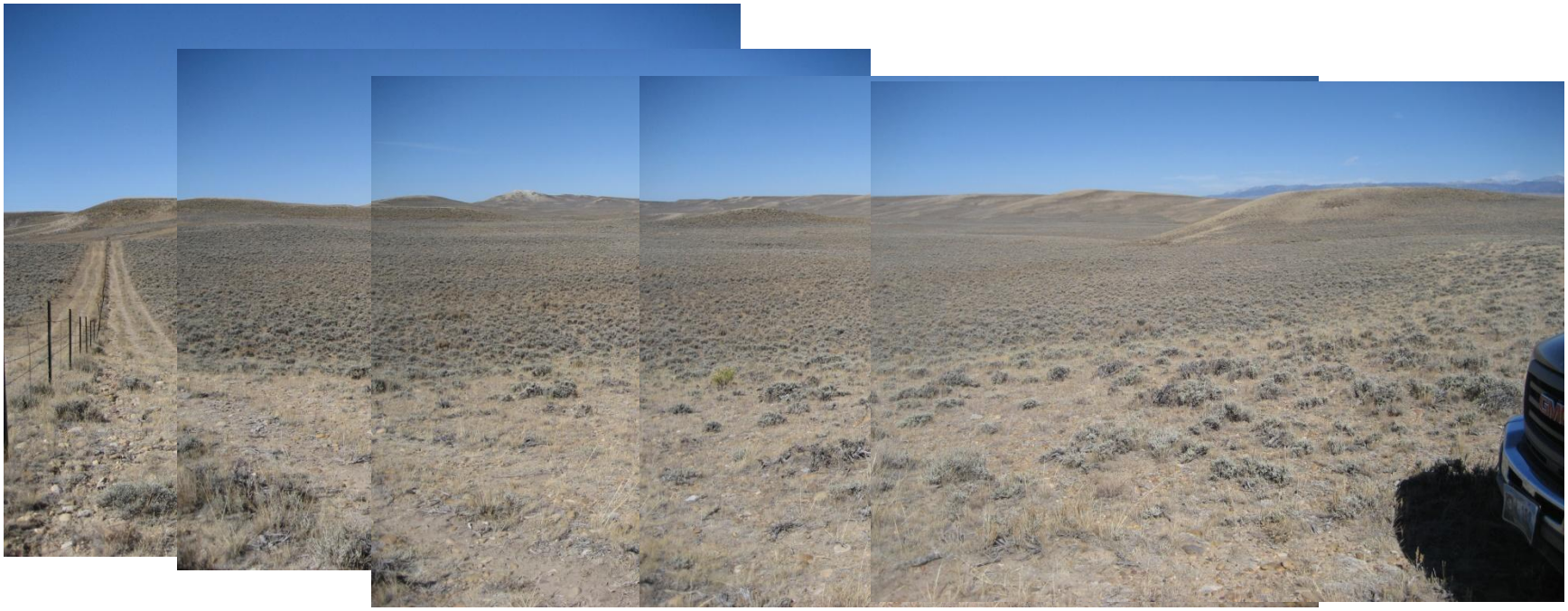






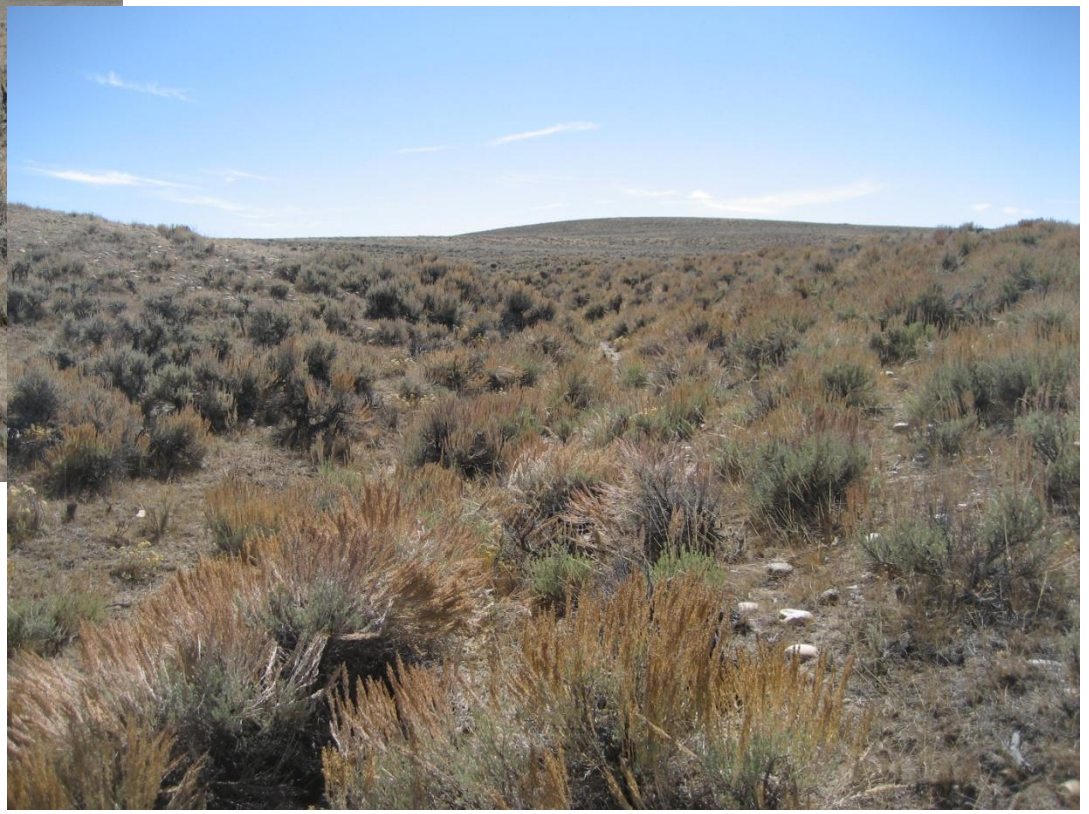
Grindstone-Soaphole Allotment
Potential Basin Improvement Strategy

Stop #1 – Lower end of basin; facing west to northwest



Stop #2 – Facing west to northwest – fenceline is boundary between 2 allotments

Grindstone-Soaphole Allotment
Potential Basin Improvement Strategy

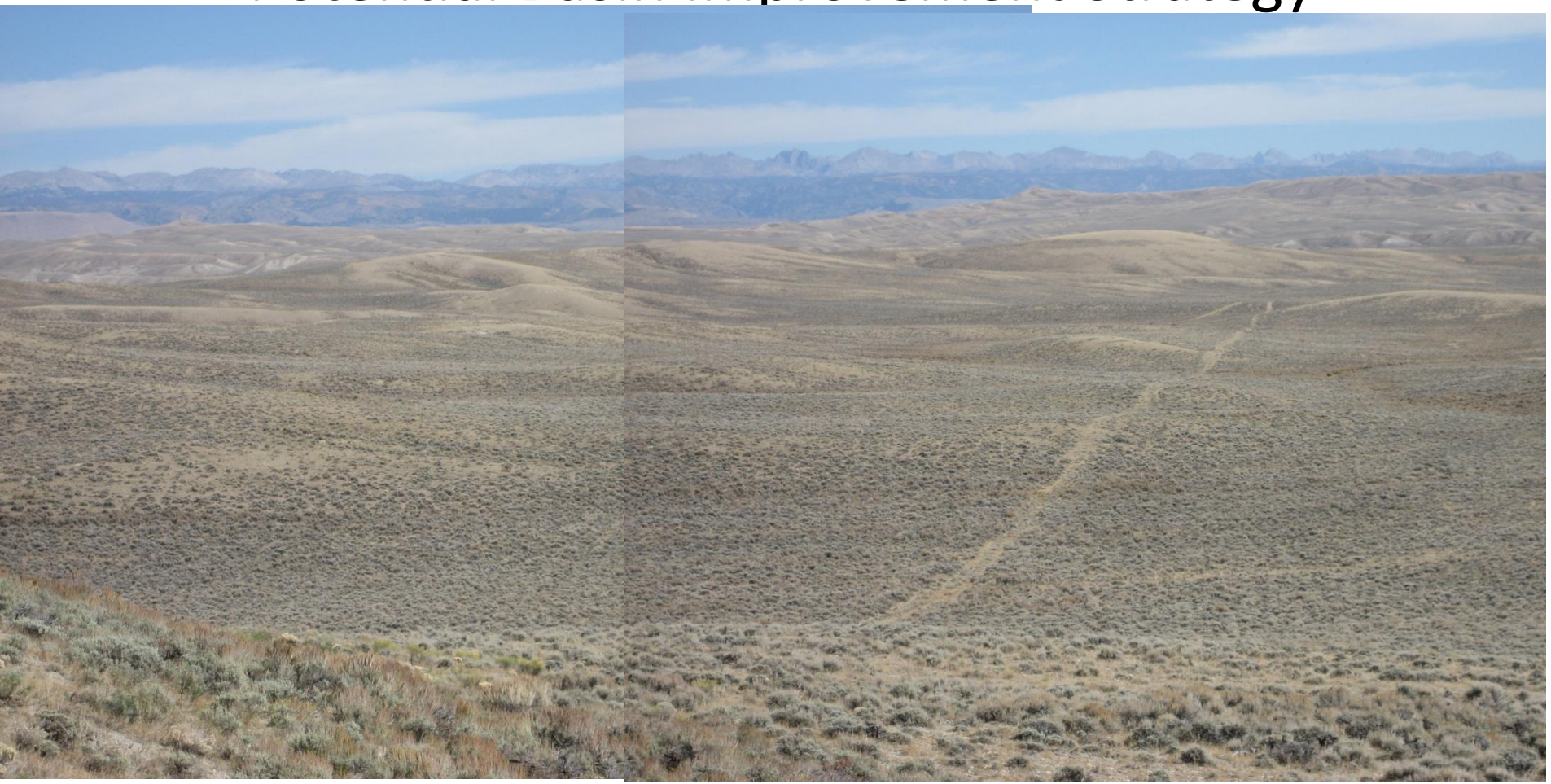


Draw bottom near previous site

Grindstone-Soaphole Allotment
Potential Basin Improvement Strategy

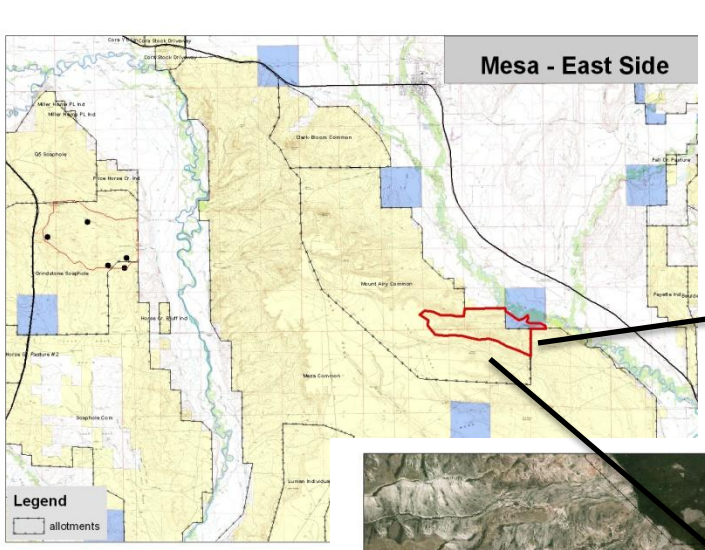
Photos from upper end of drainage

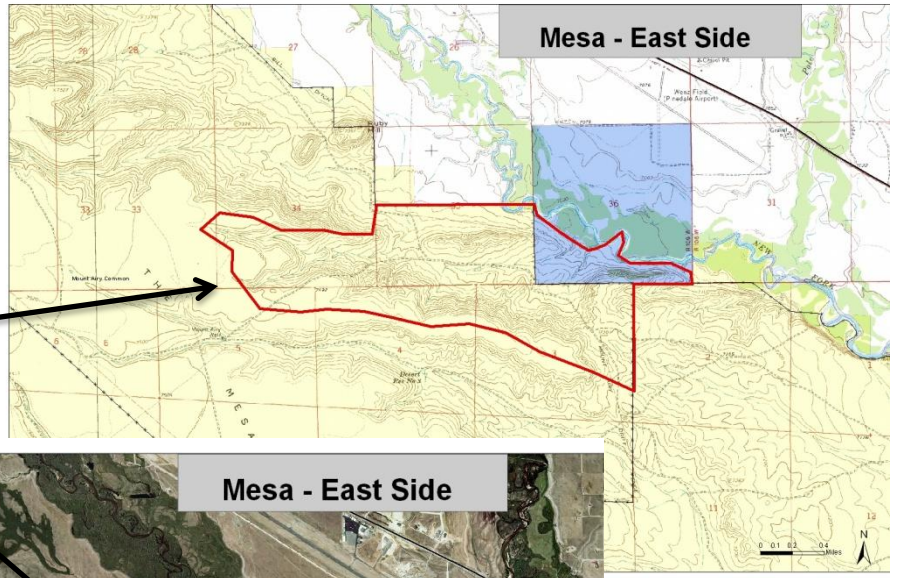
Grindstone-Soaphole Allotment
Potential Basin Improvement Strategy

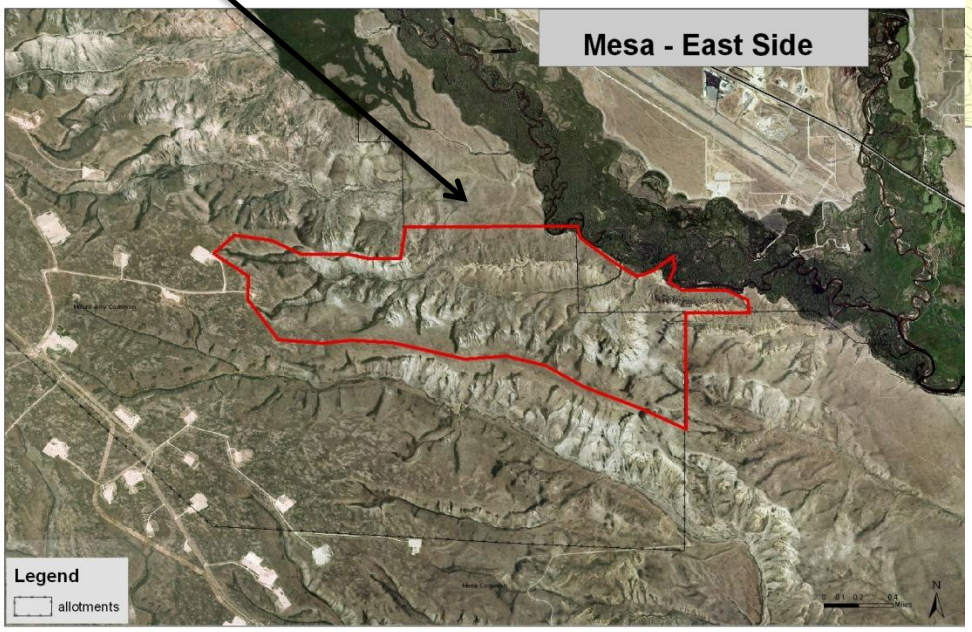


Consider working on entire drainage with sagebrush treatments and drainage restoration
Start at head of drainage and work down towards bottom
Sagebrush treatments should release some water that can be used for drainage catchments and associated seeding with Lawson Aerator work along both sides of draw (1 pass on each side

Mesa Deer Range
Eastern side







Mesa Deer Range
Eastern side

Opportunities exist on the Mesa as well for possible projects

These photos were taken in a basin on the eastern side of the Mesa illustrating some of the potential of the area

Consider focusing on this basin for possible projects

Added thoughts:

- A variety of treatment types should give us greater diversity across the landscape, even if some appear to be more related to other species

- Spring migration and associated needs may be more likely addressed at higher elevations as this migration appears quicker than the fall migration where deer tend to hold up longer as they travel to winter ranges – this is just my observation but we can follow up on it with Sawyer's collar work

- Deseret Ranch has done a lot of projects in the past and some of my recommendations come from them

- Some of my recommendations are outside the scope of the types of treatments we have done in the past; but are based on results from other areas where they have been tried, or based on the potential of certain sites per ecological site descriptions

- There is a lot more that we can do in this area than I have depicted here. At a minimum, many of the project areas could easily be expanded to a much greater area.
- Also refer to the additional comments, needs and thoughts I've included separately